

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 05625 01 OF 02 170929Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 DPW-01 /082 W
-----056186 171001Z /10

O R 170816Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3814

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SUVA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I E L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 5625

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, AS, ASEAN, PDIP

SUBJECT: PHAN HIEN'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA - PART TWO

REF: CANBERRA 5569

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. HEAD OF INDOCHINA SECTION AT FOREIGN
OFFICE PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH FULL DEBRIEFING ON SECOND
(AND FINAL) DAY OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SRV
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 05625 01 OF 02 170929Z

VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS. ATMOSPHERE WAS AS BEFORE, AND FOREIGN MINISTER
PEACOCK USED THE SECOND SET OF SESSIONS TO PROBE PHAN
HIEN'S VIEWS ON ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS,
JAPAN, THE U.S., AND SOVIET UNION. AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE
THEY HAVE PICKED UP A CLEAR INDICATION THAT VIET HAM'S
PRIORITIES RE RELATIONS WITH THE US HAVE CHANGED,

EMPHASIZING NORMALIZATION FIRST, DEFERRING DISCUSSION
ABOUT RECONSTRUCTION FOR A POST "NORMALIZATION" PHASE.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK BEGAN THE SECOND SET OF
SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS BY DESCRIBING AUSTRALIA'S VIEW
OF EVENTS IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION. AUSTRALIA WOULD
SUPPORT ASEAN AS A MANIFESTATION OF REGIONAL DESIRES FOR
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FREE OF DIRECT GREAT
POWER INFLUENCE. AUSTRALIA HAD NOTED A POTENTIAL VIETNAMESE
MISINTERPRETATION OF AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
US AND ANZUS. AUSTRALIA DID NOT WISH TO DEROGATE FROM
VIETNAM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WHATEVER
THAT RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BE; SO TOO, AUSTRALIA HAD THE
SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US WHICH IT DID NOT BELIEVE
SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A THREAT TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION.
"ANZUS WAS NOT, IS NOT, AND NEVER WAS INTENDED TO BE AN
ANTI-COMMUNIST SECURITY ORGANIZATION". JAPAN WAS AN
IMPRTANT PARTNER OF BOTH AUSTRALIA AND ITS NEIGHBOTS,
AND AUSTRALIA WAS GLAD TO SEE VIET NAM'S RELATIONS
WITH JAPAN DEVELOPING ALONG SATISFACTORY LINES.
AUSTRALIA WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED AT VIET NAM'S PARTICIPATION
IN INTERNAL FORA SUCH AS THE ADB, IMF, MEKONG COMMITTEE,
ETC. PEACOCK INVITED PHAN HIEN'S REFLECTIONS ON ITS
RELATIONS WITH ASEAN, JAPAN, THE US, SOVIET UNION,
CHINA AND KAMPUCHEA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 05625 01 OF 02 170929Z

3. PHAN HIEN BEGAN BY NOTING THAT VIET NAM WAS IN
THE PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTING ITS SOCIETY AND ECONOMY
AFTER A DECADES-LONG WAR. IT WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WOTH
ALL --- NOT JUST WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, OR WITH
OTHER SOCIALIST STATES. PHAN HIEN SPECIFICALLY SAID "VIET
NAM IS NOT AN EXPORTER OF REVOLUTION EVEN THOUGH IT'S A
REVOLUTIONARY STATE AND EVEN THOUGHT IT HAS THE ARMS TO
EXPORT."

4. PEACOCK ASKED WHETHER DIFFERENCES IN STRESSING "PEACE",
"FREEDOM", OR "NEUTRALITY" IN ZOPFAN WERE SEMANTIC OR
PHILOSOPHICAL? PHAN HIEN IMPLIED THE DISCUSSION ABOUT
PRIORITIES AMONG THE THREE WAS ESSENTIALLY PHILOSOPHICAL
BECAUSE BOTH ASEAN AND VIET NAM SHARE "COMMON ASPIRATIONS"
FOR THE PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY OF THEIR AREA.

5. PEACOCK THEN ASKED ABOUT VIET NAM'S RELATIONS WITH
KAMPUCHEA. PHAN HIEN DESCRIBED THE EVOLUTION OF THE
PRESENT UNHAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS IN HISTORICAL TERMS.
TAKING A RELATIVELY ANTI-KHMER ATTITUDE, BUT WITHOUT
STRESS OR EMOTION. VIET NAM, HE SAID, WAS THE VICTIM OF

CHINA'S POLICY OF INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF THE REGION. THE CHINESE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE AN
INDEPENDENT, REUNITED AND PROSPEROUS VIET NAM WHICH
MIGHT BE A THREAT TO CHINESE GOALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
THE CHINESE HAVE USED THE KAMPUCHEAS AS THEIR TOOLS IN
A POLICY OF HOSTILITY TOWARD VIET NAM. ALTHOUGH THE
VIETNAMESE HAVE REPEATEDLY OFFERED SIT DOWN AND
TALK TO THE KANPUCHEANS, THE LATTER HAVE
DECLINED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 05625 02 OF 02 170955Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 DPW-01 /082 W
-----056273 171000Z /10

O R 170816Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3815
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SUVA
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 5625

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

6. REFUGEES: THE GOA ACCEPTS THAT OTHER NATIONS SHOULD
NOT PRESUME TO INTERFERE IN VIET NAM'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS,
BUT NOTED THAT ONCE REGUGEEES HAVE CHOSEN ... FOR WHATEVER
REASON ... TO LEAVE VIET NAM, THEY THEN
BECOME OTHER COUNTRIES' PROBLEMS. DID PHAN HIEN SEE THE
FLOW OF REFUGEES DIMINISHING OVER A TIME? PHAN HIEN

REPLIED, IN THE SAME EVEN TONE THAT HE USED IN ANSWERING
VIRTUALLY EVERY QUESTION (EXCEPT THOSE INVOLVING CHINA AND
KAMPUCHEA), "IT IS HARD TO PREDICT WHETHER THE DEPARTURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 05625 02 OF 02 170955Z

OF THE DISAFFECTED WILL EITHER INCREASE OR DIMINISH. AS
THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM BECOMES STABLE OVER THE
NEXT YEAR OR SO, THE DEPARTURE OF REFUGEES COULD
DIMINISH." DID VIETNAM CONSIDER TAKING ANY OF THE
REFUGEES BACK, ASKED ENGELDOW? "THEY DESERVE PITY AND
SYMPATHY", SAID PHAN HIEN, "THEY ARE NOT REALLY BAD PEOPLE.
IF THE POSSIBILITY OF ADJUSTMENT IS DIFFICULT FOR THEM
AND THEY WERE TO WISH TO RETURN, THEIR REASONS WOULD BE
CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY BY THE AUTHORITIES.
WE NEED THEIR SKILLS; THEY HAVE MUCH TO OFFER."
THE GOA PRESSED BY ASKING WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES
PHAN HIEN HAD VISITED HAD INQUIRED ABOUT THE REFUGEE
PROBLEM. PHAN HIEN ACKNOWLEDGED THEY HAD, BUT ADDED THAT
THERE WAS LITTLE THE VIET NAM GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO
STEM THE FLOW OF REFUGEES: "VIET NAM CANNOT USE ITS
NAVY TO PATROL ITS LONG COASTLINE; OUR COASTLINE IS TOO
LONG. PERHAPS THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES COULD DISCUSS IT
WITH UNHCR. WE HAVE AFTER ALL 100,000 REFUGEES IN
VIET NAM FROM KAMPUCHEA, AND MANY OTHER VIETNAMESE
CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM ONE REGION TO
ANOTHER WITHIN VIET NAM." PHAN HIEN WAS ASKED WHETHER
REPORTS WERE TRUE THAT THE SRV WAS DISCEIMINATING AGAINST
ETHNIC CHINESE IN ITS TREATMENT OF VIET NAM CITIZENS.
PHAN HIEN DENIED THAT THE ETHNIC CHINESE WERE BEING
DISCRIMINATED AGAINST; "WE HAVE ARGUED WITH THEM TO STAY
AND HELP IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY." IF
THEY DO NOT CHOOSE TO STAY THAT WAS A MATTER THE
VIET NAM GOVERNMENT WAS POWERLESS TO PREVENT.

7. FINALLY, PEACOCK PRESSED PHAN HIEN TO ELABORATE ON
HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF THE VIET NAM RELATIONS
WITH THE U.S. PHAN HIEN NOTED THAT AFTER THE
WAR, VIET NAM WAS PREPARED TO MOVE QUICKLY TOWARD THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 05625 02 OF 02 170955Z

ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THEUS,
SEEING THIS AS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE REGION
AS A WHOLE AS WELL AS IN THE INTERESTS SPEARATELY
OF THE US AND OF VIET NAM. TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WITH THE US, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US AND WITH
OTHER COUNTRIES, AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS ASEAN NEIGH-

BORS "" "WOULD ALL HELP STABILITY IN THE REGION."

8. PEACOCK ASKED THEN WHETHER THE SRV'S JOINING COMECON
WOULD HELP CRITICS OF NORMALIZATION IN THE US.
PHAN HIEN REPLIED -- AND THE FOLLOWING IS THE VERBATIM
TRANSCRIPT FROM THE GOA NOTETAKER:

"VIETNAM CONSIDERS THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH
THE US AS VERY IMPORTANT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
OF CONCERN TO BOTH SIDES, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS MISSING-
IN-ACTION, AND A US CONTRIBUTION TO RECONSTRUCTION IN
VIETNAM. THE LATTER IS IMPORTANT, BUT THE NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS -- TO HAVE FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL RESPECT, AND
EQUALITY -- IS MORE IMPORTANT. VIETNAM IS THEREFORE
PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS WITH THE US. PROVIDED THAT WE CAN NORMALIZE
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, THEN THE OTHER
PROBLEMS WILL BE MORE EASILY RESOLVED."

(N.B.: BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME QUESTION ABOUT INTERPRETATION
OF THE WORD "RECONSTRUCTION", IT IS WORTH NOTING
THAT PHAN HIEN CHANGED INTERPRETERS WHEN HE ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA,
SUBSTITUTING A VIETNAMESE STUDENT HERE FOR
HIS OFFICIAL INTERPRETER WHO HAD BEEN WITH HIM IN TOKYO
AND TO WHOM THE AUSTRALIANS ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE
SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF NUANCE OR EMPHASIS THAT OCCURRED
DURING THE JAPAN VISIT. THE AUSTRALIANS CHECKED THE
TRANSLATION OF THE VIETNAMESE WORD PHAN HIEN USED, AND ARE
SATISFIED THAT "RECONSTRUCTION" -- RATHER THAN "REPARATIONS" --
IS WHAT HE MEANT, IF ONLY BECAUSE PHAN HIEN HIMSELF AT ONE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CANBER 05625 02 OF 02 170955Z

POINT CORRECTED HIS INTERPRETER'S TRANSLATION. END N.B.)

9. PHAN HIEN NOTED THAT WITH RESPECT TO ITS RELATIONS
WITH THE USSR, VIET NAM WELCOMES HELP FROM ANY QUARTER
BUT WOULD IN NO WAY PERMIT ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE
TO BE VIOLATED, NICK PARKINSON ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF
CESSATION OF CHINA'S AID, AND PHAN HIEN REPEATED WHAT HE HAS
SAID THE DAY BEFORE -- "THEY REALLY HAVEN'T DONE VERY MUCH."
BOTH SIDES CONCLUDED BY HOPING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THEM
WOULD BE CONTINUED.

10. AS A FOOTNOTE TO THE SITUATION REPORTED CANBERRA 5468,
WHEN WE CALLED BACK TO ACCEPT THE VIETNAMESE INVITATION
TO A RECEPTION FOR PHAN HIEN WE DREW A BLANK AND APOLOGETIC
REGRET THAT NO INVITATION WAS INTENDED (INVITATIONS
PRESUMABLY HAVING BEEN INTENDED ONLY FOR THOSE COUNTRIES
RECOGNIZED BY THE SRV).
ALSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, TRAVEL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER05625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780292-0840
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780754/aaaabtdg.tel
Line Count: 278
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e0f87f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 5569
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1990661
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHAN HIEN'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA - PART TWO
TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, VN, AS, VM, ASEAN, (PHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0f87f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014